

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Fish Passage Program

Introduction

Through the late 1800's and early 1900's, many dams were constructed to supply growing industries with power. Today, many dams have become obsolete and no longer serve their original purpose. These dams and other stream barriers (i.e. culverts and water diversion structures) fragment river ecosystems and impede movement of resident and migratory fishes. These barriers block fish access to thousands of miles of river and stream habitats.

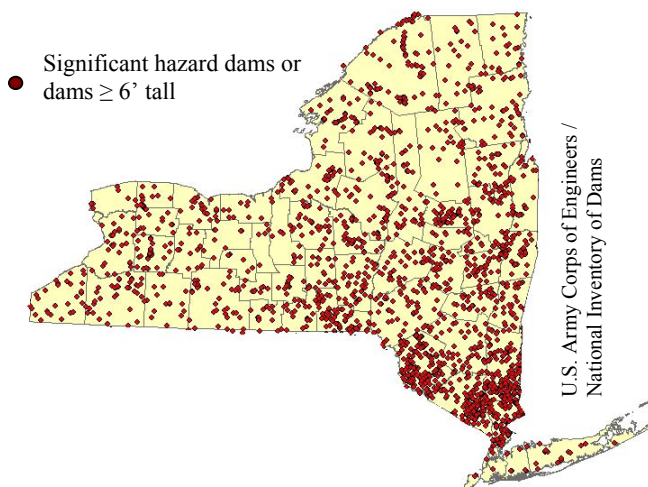


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Dam blocking fish passage

New York

In New York, over 1,971 significant dams and many more small dams and culverts block resident and migratory fish (i.e. lake sturgeon, brook trout, steelhead, and salmonids) access to important spawning, nursery and forage habitats.



Fish Passage Program

The Lower Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office – Fish Passage Program is a voluntary, non-regulatory effort that provide technical and financial assistance to restore fish passage to important spawning and nursery habitats in the lower Great Lakes basin and throughout New York.

The Fish Passage Program partners with federal, state and local agencies, non-government organizations and private entities to:

- remove obsolete dams
- install fishways or ladders at operating dams
- retrofit existing culverts and diversion structures



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Canasawacta Creek Dam in Norwich, NY



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Canasawacta Creek – after dam removal

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